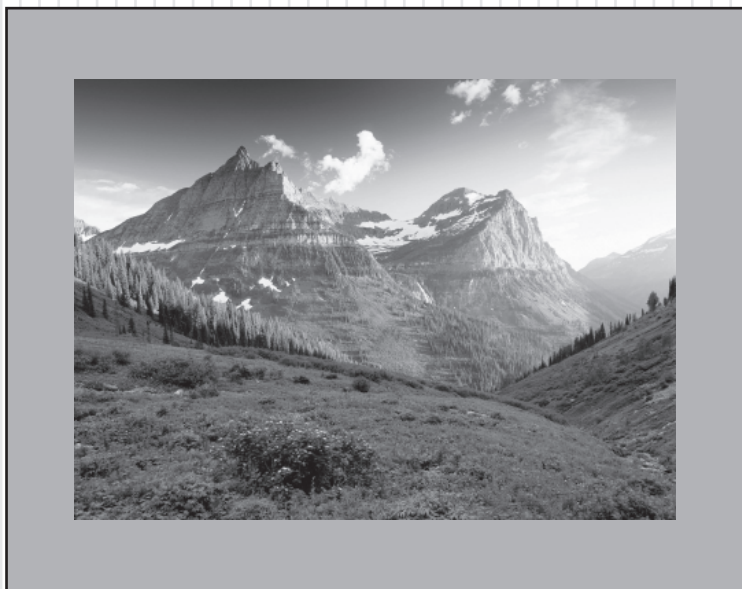


*Montana*  
*Comprehensive Assessment*  
*System (MontCAS, Phase 2)*  
*Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)*

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE  
READING, GRADE 6

2006



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Reading

## Session 1

*In “She Flies,” the narrator tells about a time when actions have an interesting result and influence other people. Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow.*

### **She Flies** *David Rice*

Students read a selection titled “She Flies” and then answered questions that followed. Due to copyright restrictions, the passage cannot be released to the public over the Internet. For more information, see the copyright citation below.

“She Flies” from *Crazy Loco* by David Rice. Published by Dial Books. Copyright © 2001 by David Rice.

22. Did Milagros do the right thing by letting the birds go free? Use specific information from the passage to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response thoroughly explains whether student thinks Milagros did the right thing by letting the birds go free. Response is well developed and uses specific and relevant information from the passage as support.
3	Response adequately explains whether student thinks Milagros did the right thing by letting the birds go free. Response lacks some development and uses some specific and some general information from the passage as support.
2	Response explains whether student thinks Milagros did the right thing by letting the birds go free. Response lacks development and uses limited information from the passage.
1	Response states whether student thinks Milagros did the right thing but does not support answer with information from the passage.  Response is minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

### Sample response

I think Milagros did the right thing by letting the birds go free. One reason I think this is because the Tia Mana, the birds' owner, thought it was the right thing. The birds end up living in the backyard so they must have been happy there after they were set free. Milagros' decision makes herself, the birds and Tia Mana happy.

Yes, because Tia Mana Garza specifically said "Milagros has done the right thing, I've had those birds too long. They should be free." And Tia Mana owned those birds and if it was alright with her Milagros did nothing wrong. If there was something wrong then Tia Mana would say something, but Milagros Dad did not have to yell at her. And anyway it said Tia Mana was laughing with joy seeing the birds flying up into her trees. And she couldn't have done anything wrong if the birds were struggling to get out. And it wasn't even her fault completely, she was trying to give them a cookie. And they must have been so happy to be let go even though they stuck around Tia Mana's house. So besides the fact she kept them locked in a cage she probably kept them well taken care of. But it was ok with Tia Mana for Milagros to accidentally let them go. So it was not her fault entirely.

Thorough explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, with specific and relevant information from the passage.

Of course she did the right thing. It is the right thing for a ton of reasons. First, imagine being a little bird who has been in a cage with many other helpless birds. Also I would have surely let them go if I had the chance! I know that a lot of people love to have animals that live in a cage. But after a while wouldn't you feel sorry for it. Next it was the right thing because when Milagros opened the door Tia Maria was very happy and felt it was the time to set them free. Finally it probably made the birds feel free and not scared up in a cage. Like Tia Maria said "Milagros has done the right thing. I've had these birds too long. They should be free." All in all Milagros did the right thing in letting the birds go!

Thorough explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, with specific and relevant information from the passage.

### Score Point 3

#### Sample 1

A. Yes, Milagros did the right thing, letting the birds go. She thought the parakeets were sad, so she thought they looked sad. Milagros thought she would just shove a cookie through the opening at the bottom of the cage door, she did not mean to let them go at first. She opened the cage and the birds flew away. Besides Tia Maria was pleased to see her parakeets fly, she was joyful. Most of the parakeets lived in her yard still anyways, so all well ends well.

Adequate explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, using some specific and general information from the passage.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

I think Milagros did do the right thing by letting the birds go free because the birds had been in the cage for along time. Some of the birds were even trying to get out by clutching onto the wall with their claws, and with there beaks they would bite the cage wire. Some of the parakeets would fly back and forth really fast hitting the cage with their bodies trying to get out of the cage. Tia Mana wanted her birds to be free anyway so that is why I thing Milagros did do the right thing.

Adequate explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, using some specific and general information from the passage.



## Score Point 2

### Sample 1

I do believe Milagros did the right thing. She believed the birds were trapped, and honestly didn't think that was right. Milagros said in the first paragraph that she wanted to set free hundreds of Parakeets, and that that was her dream.

Partial explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, using limited information from the passage.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

yes, because the birds had been in a cage for a very long time, and they were trying to get out of the cage. And you can tell that they were happy to be out because they were singing joyfully, and they lived in that tree for years.

Partial explanation of why Milagros did the right thing, using limited information from the passage.

### Score Point 1

#### Sample 1

a yes. Because they dont need to be locked up  
in a cage all their life.

Response states whether Milagros did the right thing but does not support answer with information from the passage.

### Score Point 1

#### Sample 2

Yes, because they wanted to be free. She  
is very nice by letting them be free forever.

Response states whether Milagros did the right thing but does not support the answer with information from the passage.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

Yes because no matter how much you think they, birds, should be your pet, think about it what if it was you in that cage you would want to be set free wouldn't you?

Misunderstands the question.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

She cares about things etc.

She tries to put a cookie in. Doesn't listen to her dad. She lets the birds go. And she has a party.

She cares about things ~~that~~ she tries to give the birds a cookies and let them loose.

Response is incorrect/irrelevant to the prompt.

# Reading

## Session 3

*The following article tells about the long history of kites and kite festivals and how to make your own kite. Read the article and then answer the questions that follow.*

### The Fighting Kites

Since their invention in China over 3,000 years ago, kites of all shapes and sizes have been flying all over the world. Although kites have been flown mostly for recreation, Asian folklore is rich with tales of kites used for purpose as well as pleasure.

One legend of China's Han dynasty tells how kites were used to rout an invading army. Dozens of kites were secretly flown over the enemy's camp in the dark of night. Attached to each kite were bamboo hummers that moaned eerily in the wind. According to the legend, the enemy fled in terror at the sound. Military leaders also used kites to spy on enemy strongholds, to carry a person over an obstacle, or to inject fear in the hearts of a foe. Huge eyes painted in black *sumi* ink intimidated the enemy from the air. Eventually, famous military adventures became part of the art captured on paper kite faces.

The role of kites changed from supporting military activities into competitive festivals that mimicked military battles. In the 1500s, one of the first kite-fighting festivals took place in Japan. Kite fighting between towns has since become a very popular event, as competitive as soccer in some parts of the world.

Many towns in Japan compete in the kite-fighting festivals. Participants design and decorate kites to represent them in the games. Traditional designs are still used in festival kites. The *baramon* from Nagasaki has a hummer on it, and the helmet of an old soldier is depicted on the face. One of the most decorative kites today is the *edo*, which requires a dozen lengths of kite string to guide it. The dragon kite is the *jidako*, with the Japanese character for "dragon" inked upon the paper surface.

Fighting kites are fitted with tiny knives, and the goal of a kite fight is to cut the string of the opponent's kite, setting the defeated kite free and sending it crashing to the ground. Known for their symmetry and balance, fighting kites can fly in any direction at great speed, with or without a tail.

Selection for a kite-fighting team is very competitive. Prior to a fighting festival, the town teams practice maneuvering their kites for hours. During the festival days, town teams pit themselves against one another, waging a battle high above crowds of spectators. Amidst the shouts and urgings of the fans, the kite battles can go on for hours. The victorious kite team brings great honor to its town. The fighting kites of Japan have become the modern samurai of the sky.

Now that you have learned about the history of flying kites, let's learn how to make two types of kites.

## Let's Make a Kite!

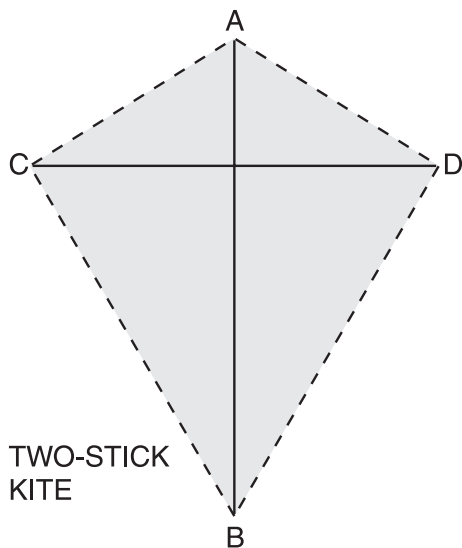
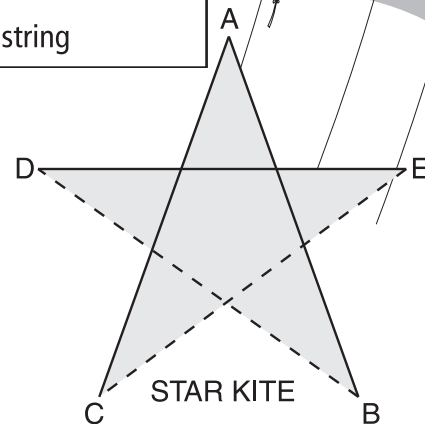
### Star Kite

The star kite is made with three 36-inch dowels (A-C, D-E, and A-B), glued and lashed together, as shown in the diagram. There are two outline strings—one at B-D and one at C-E. Lash the outline strings securely to the notched ends of the dowels.

After covering the frame with paper, fasten a "bridle string" to the ends of dowel A-C, dowel D-E, and dowel A-B. The bridle strings should be somewhat loose to allow you to gather them together to attach the flying string. Bring the three bridle strings together at a point slightly above the middle of dowel D-E. Attach the flying string where the three bridle strings join.

### Key to diagrams

— dowels or sticks  
- - - string



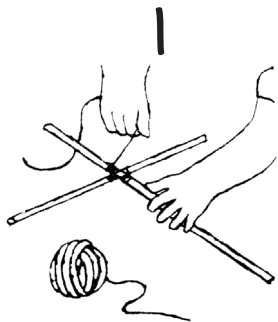
### Two-Stick Kite

Cut dowel A-B 36 inches long and dowel C-D 30 inches long. Apply glue where sticks cross and then lash them together with several windings of strong cord. Let glue dry.

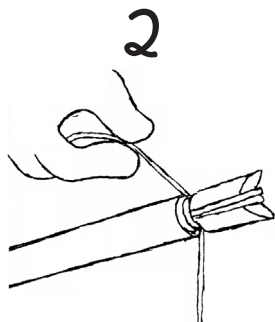
Next notch ends of each stick and make a little cut all around the end of each stick about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the tip, as shown. Run string around and through these notches to form outline of kite.

Place your kite frame on the floor on top of paper. Cut out paper to fit frame, allowing a 1-inch margin all around. Then decorate your kite with a picture or some interesting designs. Fold margin of paper over frame and glue tightly over string. Cut a piece of string about 40 inches long for the bridle string. Fasten it at points C and D. Then tie your long flying string at the center of the bridle string, and your kite is ready to fly!

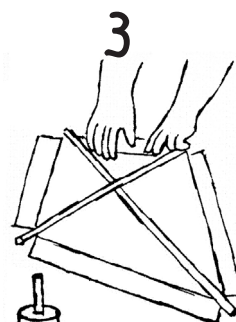
**Note:** A kite tail will keep your kite flying straight. Cut a piece of string about 36 inches long and tie strips of paper or cloth about every 6 inches along the string. Attach the tail to the bottom of your kite.



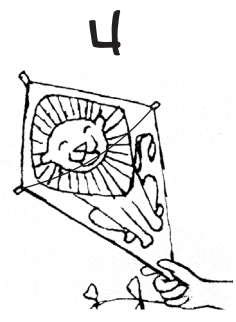
Lash sticks together.



Lash outside string.



Fold and paste paper.



Kite with bridle string.

67. How is a star kite similar to and different from a two-stick kite? Explain your answer by using specific details from the articles.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how a star kite is similar to and different from a two-stick kite. Explanation includes specific and relevant supporting information from the articles.
3	Response provides an explanation of how a star kite is similar to and different from a two-stick kite. Explanation includes specific and relevant supporting information from the articles that lacks specificity and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how a star kite is similar to and different from a two-stick kite. Explanation includes limited or partially correct information from the articles.
1	Response gives a minimal or vague statement about how a star kite is similar to and different from a two-stick kite.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response

#### How a star kite is SIMILAR TO a two-stick kite:

- Both kites are traditional Japanese designs.
- Both kites are made with dowels (should we assume the paper for the star kite is glued to the frame?).
- Both kites use a bridle string and a flying string.
- Both kites can be decorated (assuming a star kite can) with a picture or interesting designs.

#### How a star kite is DIFFERENT FROM a two-stick kite:

- **Number of dowels used:** A **star kite** is made with 3 dowels; a **two-stick kite** is made with 2 dowels (or sticks).
- **Assembly of bridle and flying strings:** With a **star kite**, one “bridle string” is fastened to each end of dowels A-C, D-E, and A-B. The bridle string should be kept somewhat loose to allow the person making the kite to gather the bridle strings together at a point in order to attach the flying string. With the **two-stick kite**, the margins of the paper covering the dowels fold over and glue tightly over the string (the string mentioned in paragraph 2 of Two-Stick Kite). The bridle string is then attached at points C and D. The flying string is then tied to the center of the bridle string.

Accept other plausible responses based on information in the article.

## Score Point 4

### Sample 1

The star kite and the two-stick kite are different in numerous ways. The star kite is in the form of a five-pointed star, while the two-stick kite is shaped like a large diamond. Also, like its name implies, the two-stick kite is made with two wooden dowels, while the star kite is made with three. The star kite's dowels are all thirty-six inches in length, but one of the two-stick kite's stick is considerably shorter than the other. The star kite uses much more string than the two-stick kite, too. Though all of these differences are slight, they are many.

These two kites are also quite similar. For one thing, they are both flying kites. They both have outline, bridle, and flying strings attached and are made with wooden dowels. Both the star kite and the two-stick kite are covered with paper and can be decorated. Truthfully, their similarities are not as many as their differences, but they are still alike in many ways.

Thorough explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites with specific supporting details from the text.



The star kite and the two stick kite are similar and different in many ways. Here's a few reasons they are similar. First of all they both need at least one 3/6 inch dowel. Also they each have four or more sides. Even most of their materials are the same. Both of them can be decorated any way they want too. Supplies that are required when making them are glue, dowels, sticks, strings, scissors, paper, and decorations. Now let's compare different things about the star kite and the two stick kite. One the star kite has 5 sides, A, B, C, D, and E. The two stick kite only has 4 sides, A, B, C, and D. The star kite requires three 3/6 inch dowels. The two stick kite only needs one 3/6 inch dowel. Also the materials they use, like the glue, are placed in different spots. Those were many reasons why the star kite and the two stick kite are similar and different.

Thorough explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites with specific supporting details from the text.

### Score Point 3

#### Sample 1

The star kite is similar to the two-stick kite in five ways. First, they both use dowels for the body of the kites. Also, they use string either to tie them together or make the shape of the kites. To make them fly, you put a covering on them. Lastly, the fun part is decorating which both kites allow you to do. On the other hand, there are some differences like the shape, one is a star and the other is a diamond. Second, the star shaped kite uses three dowels. The two-stick kite only uses two dowels. Clearly, there are differences and similarities between the two kites.

An explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites but lacks specifics and/or development.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

When making a star kite you use 3 dowels and only 2 in a two-stick kite. Plus they are different shapes. Also in a two-stick kite, the bridle string goes along the outer edge while the bridle string on the star kite does not. They are alike in that they both have dowels, bridle strings, and can have a tail. They both can fly well and are simple to make. These two kites came from a Chinese inventor, a long time ago.

An explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites but lacks specifics and/or development.

## Score Point 2

### Sample 1

They are simalare because they both have dowles and strings, they both fly, and both work. They are different because the two-stick kite is shaped like a diamond and the star kite is shaped like a star, also because the star kite has three strings and the two-stick kite has only one.

Partial explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites but includes limited information from the text.

## Score Point 2

### Sample 2

The star-kite and the two-stick kite are both pretty simple to make and you must use lots of string and dowels and paper to get it to fly. Both kites have pointed ends and they both have a point like birds wings probably to steer it easier.

The star and two stick kite have different shape and looks the star kite uses 3 dowels and the two stick uses 2 dowels.

Partial explanation of the differences/similarities of the two kites but includes limited information from the text.

**Score Point 1**

**Sample 1**

They are different by they have a different number of dowels and string, also they are different shape. They are the same because you can put a tail on each of them.

Minimal statements about the differences/similarities of the two kites.

**Score Point 1**

**Sample 2**

A Star Kite is different because it has three dowels and the two-sticked kite has two.

Minimal statement about the difference of the two kites.

**Score Point 0**

**Sample 1**

They both can fly in the sky. The Star Kite is very different from the other kite. The star kite gets more air the the two stike kite.

Irrelevant statements about the kites.

**Score Point 0**

**Sample 2**

In Japan people make dragon kites for when they have selebration.

Irrelevant statements about the kites.

# Acknowledgments

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